
the alliance report

March, 1989

Vol. 3, No. 1

ALLIANCE OPENS NEW HEAD OFFICE

The staff of Alliance Quebec breathed a large sigh of relief after moving into its new office, located at 5035 de Maisonneuve West. After a month of working out of hotel rooms and borrowed meeting spaces, and receiving telephone messages on a "catch-as-catch-can" basis, staff members are delighted to have phones that ring and to be able to receive mail on a daily basis!

For the next eight weeks, the Alliance will occupy temporary space on the main floor of the building on de Maisonneuve. During this time, the second floor is being renovated. The Alliance hopes to move in May 1.

Conditions are somewhat cramped in the temporary space, and the staff has been busy unpacking boxes and setting up furniture. After the Crescent Street fire, the contents of the office were sent for cleaning. After spending 24 hours in an ozone chamber, books, papers and files have emerged deodorized (if somewhat grey).

Slowly treasures have been returned from storage. Boxes (and boxes and more boxes) of Mildred's newspaper clippings have come back. Jeffrey Kushner's pipes are once again in working order, as is Sheila's teapot. Mireille's rolodex still works, although the heat of the fire melted its cover. And the kitchen refrigerator is now cleaner than it has been in over a decade.

For people trying to reach Alliance Quebec, here are our new numbers:

5035 de Maisonneuve West
Montreal, Quebec
H4A 1Y5

Telephone #: (514) 488-4121
FAX #: (514) 488-4167

If you are in the neighborhood, please drop in, or give us a call.

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February 9, 1989

ROYAL ORR RESIGNS FROM ALLIANCE QUEBEC

The President of Alliance Quebec, Royal Orr, announced that he was stepping down to become host of CJAD's Exchange program. Mr. Orr, who is nearing the end of his second term as President, said "it was a difficult time to leave the Alliance, but the challenge of returning to broadcasting is irresistible". The Chairman of Alliance Quebec, Peter Blaikie, said that the executive of the Alliance had greeted President Royal Orr's decision to resign with a mixture of pride and sadness.

"Royal informed the executive last October that he would not be seeking a renewal of his mandate. He told us at that time it was his intention to resume his career as a broadcaster," Mr. Blaikie said.

"We are delighted that he will be assuming one of the most important and prestigious jobs in English language radio in Quebec. As the host of an open-line programme, he will continue to contribute to thoughtful public debate in our society."

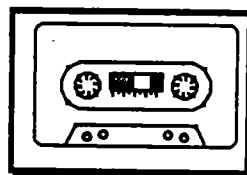
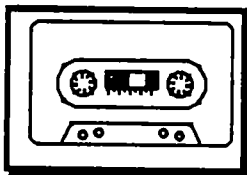
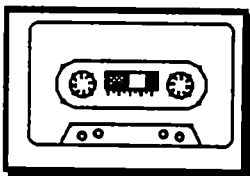
Mr. Blaikie said Mr. Orr will continue to provide active leadership as President of the Alliance until he assumes his new responsibilities at CJAD on March 27, 1989.

He said that Mr. Orr's successor will be chosen at the annual general meeting of the Alliance on May 27.

The executive committee will be meeting shortly to determine what interim arrangements are required for the period from March 27 to May 27, 1989.

Mr. Blaikie said that during his presidency, Royal Orr has ensured that the Alliance has been an effective voice for the English-speaking community. "He has built a strong leadership team which augurs well for the future of this organization."

"Royal has earned great loyalty from the English-speaking community, particularly during the recent difficult times", said Mr. Blaikie. "I join with all the members of the Alliance in wishing Royal every success in his new job."



February 8, 1989

ALLIANCE QUEBEC WANTS BETTER PROTECTION FOR MINORITY RIGHTS

The President of Alliance Quebec, Mr. Royal Orr, presented three demands to the New Brunswick Legislative Committee studying the Meech Lake Accord which he called "essential for the protection of the linguistic minority communities" to the New Brunswick Legislative Committee studying the Meech Lake Accord. He called upon the New Brunswick government "to take seriously your responsibility to give national leadership on constitutional and language issues."

In his presentation to the Committee, Mr. Orr made three major recommendations. They were:

- that the notwithstanding clause be removed from the Constitution;
- that the Constitution be amended to establish the obligation of all governments of Canada to promote linguistic duality;
- that the Constitution be amended to ensure that Section 16 of the Accord does not diminish the constitutional rights of Canadians.

Mr. Orr said that the three demands are necessary to protect minority rights, and to ensure that progress is made in the constitutional reform process. He noted that New Brunswick "has recently been at the forefront of language reform, bringing us closer to a vision of a Canada united in its commitment to equality and linguistic justice."

Mr. Orr made it clear that "Quebec's adherence to the Constitution is of crucial importance. Perhaps no community feels with greater impact Quebec's isolation within Confederation more than the English-speaking community of Quebec."

Alliance Quebec emphasized its profound concern about the potential negative impact of the Meech Lake Accord on minority language rights and Charter rights in Canada. "It has become clear since the Meech Lake process began and further to the actions of the governments of Quebec, Saskatchewan, and Alberta in the last several months, that successful constitutional reform requires a thorough debate on the nature and future of the Canadian federation." Recently, these governments ignored judgments of the Supreme Court of Canada which upheld minority rights.

The Alliance President indicated that "a new constitutional equilibrium cannot be reached unless the full destructive impact of these actions is addressed and resolved."

In closing, he made it clear that he was not asking New Brunswick "to interfere in the affairs of Quebec", but rather to provide "leadership in ensuring that a true and lasting vision of Canada is reflected in the fundamental law of the land".

February 13, 1989

**ALLIANCE QUEBEC PRESIDENT ROYAL ORR'S
REMARKS TO A NEWS CONFERENCE ON LAW 142.**

It is now two years since Law 142, *An Act to Again Amend the Act Respecting Health and Social Services*, was adopted by the provincial government. This law was designed to guarantee English-speaking Quebecers access to health and social services in their own language. Today, those guarantees remain an unfulfilled promise.

Law 142 was designed to provide for guaranteed access through two main measures: the formal recognition and protection of existing English-language institutions and the development and approval of regional access plans. These plans ensure access to English-language services in each region of the province.

In January 1988, the government designated a list of the institutions mandated to provide health and social services to the English-speaking population of their regions.

Alliance Quebec welcomed this first important step towards the implementation of this law. However, the government has been painfully slow in moving on the second phase -- the approval of the regional access plans.

Access to English-language health and social services is a particularly urgent concern in many of the regions outside of Montreal. For the most part, English-speaking people living outside Montreal are without adequate services. The isolated elderly and troubled youth are particularly vulnerable. For these people, the situation has not changed since Law 142 was passed. It is crucial that the regional access plans be approved and implemented, particularly in these areas.

Regional Health and Social Service Councils in 10 of the 11 administrative regions have submitted their proposed plans. Many plans were deposited with the Ministry of Health and Social Services 10 months ago. The government has yet to approve an access plan.

The law requires that regional access plans be developed through consultation with the English-speaking community. The government-administered regional health councils have, with a few exceptions, collaborated and consulted in good faith with the representatives of the community. In particular, the Outaouais Alliance, the Committee for Anglophone Social Action in the Gaspé, the Townshippers' Association and the Voice of English Quebec in Quebec City have been pleased with the constructive and thorough approaches of their respective Regional Health Councils.

But, the significant progress that has been made on Law 142 at the local level stands in stark contrast to the government's lack of action in approving plans. We are disappointed that Mr. Sirros, who is responsible for guiding the provincial process, has not been more effective in consulting with the community and moving plans forward.

The Minister for Health and Social Services, Mme Thérèse Lavoie-Roux, must assure the community that the approved plans will be implemented, monitored and reviewed as an ongoing commitment to ensure the access accorded by law. (continued on page 5)

REMARKS TO A NEWS CONFERENCE ON LAW 142. (cont'd)

Above all, Premier Bourassa must reaffirm the government's commitment on Law 142 by indicating when the cabinet will approve all plans. Until he does this, no significant change will occur for those seeking access to health and social services in English.

Consultation with the community is and will remain a major element of the success of Law 142. Collaboration with regional Health and Social Service Councils, as well as with the establishments named in regional access plans will help make Law 142 a daily reality in the delivery of services to the English-speaking community.

The plans must designate institutions and the specific services they will provide. They must detail the means and mechanisms by which the English-speaking community will gain access to services -- through the use of inter-regional agreements or the regrouping of English-speaking clients in an institution. The plans must prioritize services, identify where services must be developed and subsequently approved by the government.

Alliance Quebec is particularly concerned about the status of access plans in Montreal and in Quebec's Gaspé region. The process in Montreal is very slow, and the Montreal Regional Council has not yet submitted an access plan to the Ministry. Although the presence of institutions guarantees a significant range of services, an access plan is required now to ensure services in CLSC's and long-term shelter for English-speaking elderly.

The Gaspé, a region of small and dispersed communities, offers a solemn example of the need for the prompt and thorough implementation of Law 142. Recently, Mary's Boarding Home, the region's sole English institution in the Health and Social Services system, was closed. No alternative facility was provided. English-speaking senior residents were scattered through nursing homes across the region, often out of reach from needed family and friends. An access plan, approved by the government, must address this need.

On this, the second anniversary of the passage of Law 142, we call upon the government to honour its commitment to our community. Regional access plans, carefully developed in thorough consultation with the community, must be approved and implemented -- and without delay.

No less was promised to our community. No less will be accepted.

On Wednesday, February 15, 1989, the provincial government approved two access plans - one for the Abitibi region and one for the Quebec City region. The Provincial Health and Social Services Committee sees the adoption of these plans as an encouraging sign, and hopes that the Cabinet will move to accept other plans without delay. Two more plans - for the Côte Nord and the Outaouais regions - are scheduled to go before Cabinet shortly.

February 26, 1989

ALLIANCE QUEBEC DEMANDS CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGE

On the eve of the First Ministers' conference in Ottawa, the President of Alliance Quebec, Royal Orr, called upon the First Ministers to bring forward constitutional amendments. These changes must:

1. Repeal the notwithstanding clause;
2. Strengthen minority language rights;
3. Strengthen the charter of rights.

In a letter to the Prime Minister, Mr. Orr pointed out that events since June 3rd, 1987, have overtaken the Meech Lake Accord. Citing recent actions in Quebec, Saskatchewan, and Alberta overriding Supreme Court judgments concerning linguistic minority rights, Mr. Orr stated emphatically that the argument that the Accord is a "seamless web" can no longer be sustained. The Accord has already begun to unravel as a result of the subsequent acts of some of its signatories.

The current dramatically changed constitutional and political climate and has rendered essential further constitutional amendments at this time, said Mr. Orr.

"At this moment, when the Constitution is to be amended to include a description of the fundamental nature of Canada, to ignore these profoundly significant developments since June 3, 1987 would amount to and be interpreted politically (if not legally) as condonation and acquiescence. These developments bear directly on the very meaning of the fundamental characteristic of linguistic duality which Meech Lake identifies. They cannot be ignored in these circumstances. We cannot pretend that they did not happen, particularly in the aftermath of the Accord. They did occur, and they demand attention now", Mr. Orr stated.

The First Ministers must make clear what the "linguistic duality" provisions mean in the Accord. Mr. Orr noted that "the Meech Lake Accord is correct in its affirmation of linguistic duality must be the ability of Canadians to feel at home and secure throughout this country regardless of their official language of participation. Whatever the distinct identity of Quebec may mean, it cannot mean or imply the division of Canada into a unilingual French Quebec and a unilingual English remainder of Canada. Since signing the Meech Lake Accord the federal government and the governments of New Brunswick and Ontario have continued to demonstrate a willingness to promote linguistic duality. The provinces of Quebec, Saskatchewan and Alberta, however, have taken actions which tend to diminish linguistic duality as a fundamental characteristic of Canada."

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Constitutional Changes continued ...

Mr. Orr reminded the Prime Minister that Premier Bourassa has stated that his primary responsibility was to French-speaking Quebec. As such Mr. Orr questioned who was looking after the interests of Quebec's English-speaking community, and he called upon the Prime Minister to do so.

"Finally, it is with regret that we must remind you of our concern that the perspectives and needs of Quebec's English-speaking community must be represented and defended in the current constitutional discussions. Regrettably our Premier, Mr. Bourassa, has taken the position that his primary responsibility is to protect the interests of French-speaking Quebecers. He does not present himself as the premier of all Quebecers equally. We have looked to the government of Quebec as the government of all Quebecers and have been let down. Who will stand and speak for us during this round of constitutional discussions? If Premier Bourassa does not see himself as the advocate for all Quebecers, we must look to you as the Prime Minister of all Canadians. We call upon you, therefore, to fulfill this responsibility. As you know, the strength of the constitution depends ultimately upon the confidence of those who will be governed by it.

Constitutional reform must be an exercise in nation-building. Bringing Quebec in is of vital importance. Ensuring that the fundamental values of Canada are secure is also vital. Both can be done. We urge you to ensure that they are achieved together. It must be done now."

Mr. Orr stated that he was anxiously awaiting the Prime Minister's reply following his meeting on Monday with his fellow First Ministers.

Convention '89

The eighth annual Alliance Quebec Convention will be held on the weekend of May 26th. Once again this year, we will be using the facilities of John Abbott College in Ste. Anne-de-Bellevue. The Convention Committee has begun planning the weekend's activities, and is looking forward to an exciting and busy convention. If you want to be a part of the convention, please contact your local chapter.

If you are considering running for the Provincial Board of Directors or Executive Committee, please note that the deadline for submission of nomination forms is Friday, April 28th, at 5:00 p.m.. All forms must be in the Alliance Quebec office at that time to be valid.

February 28, 1989

REGIONAL CONSULTATION IS GREAT SUCCESS

In the past six weeks, Alliance Quebec has held a series of regional meetings that drew unprecedented numbers of people. The regional meetings were part of an action plan unveiled by Royal Orr on January 18 at a special meeting of the Alliance held at the Shangrila Hotel. Over 400 people applauded as Mr. Orr announced a series of Alliance initiatives, including lobby days in Ottawa and Quebec City, and a postcard campaign to Premier Robert Bourassa.

The Alliance President called upon all Quebecers of goodwill to work together "to build the kind of society we all want". The challenge was to overcome the misapprehensions and lack of security in both linguistic communities, because "Bill 178 is not the problem but only the symptom of a greater problem".

After the Shangrila Hotel meeting, the Community Development staff redoubled its efforts to organize the regional meetings. The accomplishment of the Community Development team is impressive: in five weeks, eight meetings were held across the province and over 3,300 people attended. At the meetings, 25,000 postcards were distributed, and hundreds of people signed up for lobby days and other AQ activities.

Of special note was the West Island meeting, where the former Minister of the Environment, Clifford Lincoln, gave an impassioned defence of his decision to vote against Bill 178. In his speech, which was frequently interrupted by applause, he called for the abolition of the notwithstanding clause in the Canadian Charter of Rights. He also made it clear he was tired of the language debate and hoped that all Quebecers would work towards greater harmony and understanding.

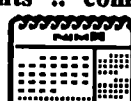
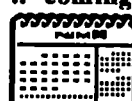
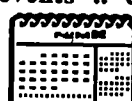
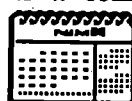
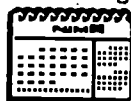
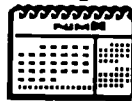
The regional associations have also been busy. C.A.S.A., the Townshippers' Association, V.E.Q. and the Outaouais Alliance have all organized meetings in their region, and delivered their message to over 2,000 people who attended fifteen meetings across the province.

But, the most encouraging development has been the response from students. Royal Orr has spoken to students at Concordia, McGill, Dawson, Vanier and Marianopolis College. Several hundred students have focused their attention on the importance of Charter rights and the problem of the notwithstanding clause.

This heightened interest on campuses has resulted in the creation of four AQ student clubs - a first in the Alliance's history. The Youth Committee and the Community Development Programme are working to have these clubs recognized as full chapters by Convention.

Commenting on the extraordinary events of the past weeks, Royal Orr noted "the attendance and the enthusiasm shown at each meeting is most encouraging. Not only have English-speaking Quebecers demonstrated their opposition to Bill 178, they have also indicated their personal commitment to Quebec and its future."

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FOR A FUTURE TOGETHER, ALLIANCE QUEBEC ... IT'S UP TO YOU

Alliance Quebec is working:

- to ensure that our school system provides quality education to our children;
- to negotiate agreements with regional health councils to provide health and social services in English;
- to present the concerns of English-speaking community to politicians in Ottawa and Quebec City;
- to speak out on national issues and promote the interests of the official language minority communities across the country;
- to support our artists and encourage the cultural expression of our community;
- to bring together English-speaking Quebecers from communities across the province to discuss problems and share resources and solutions;
- to maintain a broadly-based, democratically organized community organization that reflects your concerns;
- to promote the full participation of our community in Quebec society.

WE'RE WORKING FOR THE COMMUNITY

JOIN US NOW!

alliance quebec

5035 ouest de Maisonneuve W., Montreal, Quebec, H4A 1Y5
(514) 488-4121

	1 year/an	3 years/ans
Individual membership (Adhésion individuelle)	\$ 5 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$12 <input type="checkbox"/>
Family membership * (Adhésion familiale)	\$10 <input type="checkbox"/>	\$20 <input type="checkbox"/>

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM/FORMULAIRE D'ADHÉSION PLEASE PRINT/LETTRES MOULÉES, S.V.P.

LAST NAME/NOM

FIRST NAME/PRÉNOM

ADDRESS/ADRESSE

MUNICIPALITY/MUNICIPALITÉ

POSTAL CODE/CODE POSTAL

TEL - OFFICE/BUREAU

TEL - HOME/RÉSIDENCE

SIGNATURE

DATE

FAMILY MEMBERS/MEMBRES DE LA FAMILLE:*

*Family members living in the same household / Membres de la famille vivant sous le même toit
